

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SSC-01 /070 W  
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R 151130Z JAN 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0494

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PK, PINT  
SUBJECT: GENERAL ZIA ANNOUNCES COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

1. ON JANUARY 12, CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA)  
GENERAL ZIA ANNOUNCED THE LONG-EXPECTED ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A 16-MEMBER COUNCIL OF ADVISORS. THIS DEFACTO CABINET  
FOR THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION(MLA) CONTAINS CIVIL  
SERVANTS, MILITARY OFFICERS, BUSINESSMEN, AND ONE ACTIVE  
POLITICIAN. THE GENERAL COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP IS NOT  
SURPRISING--CONSERVATIVE, PRO-FREE ENTERPRISE, SUPPORTERS  
OF BOTH STRICT ISLAMIC LAW AND THE MLA. THE COOUNCIL IS  
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NOTEWORTHY FOR THE ABSENCE OF ANY NATIONALLY PROMINENT  
POLITICIANS--THEY OBVIOUSLY WISH TO AVOID TOO CLOSE AN  
IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL ALSO  
STATES THAT ADDITIONAL ADVISORS, INCLUDING TWO FROM  
BALUCHISTAN, WILL BE ADDED " IN THE NEAR FUTURE". ALL

ADVISORS HAVE THE RANK AND STATUS OF FEDERAL MINISTERS AND THOSE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE MILITARY WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THEIR EXISTING APPOINTMENTS.

3. GENERAL ZIA HAS WANTED FOR SOME TIME TO REFURBISH HIS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. HE HOPES THAT THE FORMATION OF A QUASI-CABINET WILL IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION, AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF A BROAD-BASED COUNCIL OF "WISE MEN," EVEN THOUGH IT WILL ADD TO THE APPEARANCE OF PERMANENCY OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MANY OF THE ADVISORS ARE ALREADY ACTIVE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS, AND WE DOUBT IF THE NEW COUNCIL WILL HAVE ANY MAJOR BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON PAKISTAN'S TRADITIONALLY SLOW-MOVING BUREAUCRACY.

4. THE ADVISORS AND THEIR MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES, WITH SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE LESSER-KNOWN, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

---GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN-SECRETARY GENERAL IN CHIEF. TO COORDINATE THE FUNCTIONS OF ALL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INTER-PROVINCIAL MATTERS AND PLANNING. THIS APPOINTMENT STRENGTHENS GHULAM ISHAQ'S POSITION AS THE MOST POWERFUL CIVIL SERVANT IN THE COUNTRY.

---A.K. BROHI-LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.  
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---LT. GEN F.A. CHISTI-CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE CMLA-ESTABLISHMENT AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS. CHISTI'S INCLUSION INDICATES THAT HE IS MORE WILLING THAN FORMERLY THOUGHT TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE MLA.

---MUSTAFA GOKAL-SHIPPING AND PORTS-GOKAL AND HIS BROTHERS OWN THE LARGEST SHIPPING CORPORATION IN PAKISTAN. GOKAL HAS EXTENSIVE BUSINESS INTERESTS ABROAD AND REPORTEDLY SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN LONDON.

--LT. GEN HABIBULLAH KHAN-INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTION.

---LT. GEN. GHULAM HASSAN KHAN-ADVISOR ON NATIONAL SECURITY-LABOR, MANPOWER, RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

---AIR MARSHAL INAMUL HAQ-INTERIOR-THE AIR MARSHAL IS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE AND ONE OF THE LEADING CONTENDERS AS THE NEXT AIR CHIEF MARSHAL.

---A.G.N. KAZI-SECRETARY GENERAL FINANCE AND ECONOMIC

COORDINATION-FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WATER AND POWER.

---N.A. KURESHI-RAILWAYS- A CAREER RAILWAY OFFICIAL,  
KUREAHI HAD RETIRED IN 1969 UPON REACHING RETIREMENT AGE.

---MAHMUD ALI-ENVIRONMENT, URBAN AFFAIRS, HOUSING AND  
WORKS. THE "EAST PAKISTAN" REPRESENTATIVE, ALI IS A  
BENGALI, AN OLD MUSLIM LEAGUE POLITICIAN WHO STAYED IN  
PAKISTAN AFTER 1971 AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOCIAL WELFARE  
ACTIVITIES.

---MAULA BAKHSH SOOMOR-POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE.  
SOOMRO IS A SINDHI POLITICIAN, STRIDENTLY ANTI-BHUTTO,  
WHO WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1970 AS AN  
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INDEPENDENT. HE IS THE ONLY ACTIVE POLITICO ON THE COUNCIL  
AND IS NEARLY WITHOUT INFLUENCE OUTSIDE OF SIND.

---MOHAMMAD ALI KHAN OF HOTI-EDUCATION-FROM THE  
FRONTIER, HOTI WAS ACTIVE IN POLITICS IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
INDEPENDENCE. HE IS NOW A WEALTHY AND CONSERVATIVE  
BUSINESSMAN WITH SUBSTANTIAL HOLDINGS IN THE FRONTIER.

--DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF  
AGRICULTURE-FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

---SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA-ATTORNEY GENERAL.

---AGHA SHAHI-FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

---REAR ADMIRAL R.M. SHEIKH-PETROLEUM AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES. SHEIKH IS THE LEADING CONTENDER AS NEXT  
CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF.

---GENERAL ZIA HAS RETAINED THE PORTFOLIOS FOR DEFENSE  
INFORMATION, ATOMIC ENERGY, HEALTH, POPULATION PLANNING,  
AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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